

Patrick's Point State Park



Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



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Patrick's Point State Park

4150 Patrick's Point Drive

Trinidad, CA 95570

(707) 677-3570



*In the springtime,
herbs, grasses and shrubs
decorate the meadows,
producing colorful
wildflower displays
and providing scenic
views of the shoreline and
the rock outcrops.*



Jhirty miles north of Eureka a tree- and meadow-covered headland juts into the Pacific Ocean.

This is Patrick's Point State Park, with a shoreline that ranges from the broad sandy stretch of Agate Beach to sheer cliffs that rise high above the sea. A number of "sea stacks," parts of the mainland that have been isolated by the pounding surf, stand offshore like fence pickets.

Patrick's Point is shrouded in fog much of the year, especially during the summer, when it sometimes does not burn off for days at a time. Crystal clear days appear most frequently during spring and fall. Rainfall averages more than 60 inches a year, most of it falling between November and April. Temperatures are moderate much of the year, with only about a 10-degree difference in average temperatures between summer and winter. Summer highs average 62 degrees, winter lows 38 degrees.

PARK HISTORY

Native People

Patrick's Point State Park is located within the historic territory of the Yurok tribe. For thousands of years, coastal Yurok people built villages on lagoons or at the mouths of streams. The interior Yurok constructed their villages along rivers. Both interior and coastal groups lived off the richness of the land, the rivers and the ocean. Fishing for salmon and surf fish, gathering shellfish such as mussels, hunting deer and elk, and collecting huckleberries, salmonberries

and acorns were traditional activities that sustained the Yurok. Their way of life included rigid codes of conduct, and cosmology and spiritual traditions that tied them to the natural world and incorporated many geographic features that still hold great spiritual meaning.

The Yurok culture emphasized the accumulation of spiritual wealth, especially dance regalia and dentalium shells, and Yurok are known for their art in building redwood dugout canoes. Traditional hunting and gathering methods are being used today by modern Yurok people who nurture and sustain their time-honored practices.

Europeans and Americans

Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and Sir Francis Drake sailed along the coast of what is now Humboldt County as early as the 16th century, but it was a Spanish vessel captained by Bruno de Hezeta that braved the unpredictable winds and rocky shoreline to land in Trinidad Bay in 1775. The fur

trade had come to the Trinidad Bay region by June 1801, when Captain Jonathon Winship arranged with Governor Baranov of Sitka to take 100 Aleuts on a sea otter hunting expedition to California.

With the discovery of gold in the Trinity region of northern California in the early 1800s, the local tribes experienced an influx of miners, adventurers and packers into their territory. Those who came seeking adventure and wealth through trading and trapping gave way to gold miners and settlers looking to claim Yurok lands.

THE PARK

The California State Parks Commission purchased Patrick's Point in 1929 after approval of the 1928 Park Bond. Additional land was acquired over several years, bringing the park's total to 640 acres. From this earliest time the park was identified as a potential site for a traditional Indian village that would portray the richness of the culture of the northwest coast.

Sea stack off Rocky Point



Sumêg Village

In the fall of 1990, the newly constructed Yurok Village of Sumêg was dedicated, and a long-held dream for interpreting regional culture was realized. Local Yurok people working with park staff accomplished the construction work. Sumêg consists of three typical family houses, a sweathouse, a dance pit, three changing houses and a redwood canoe. All of these structures are made from boards split from redwood trees, hazel bindings and local stone.

The Yurok village of Sumêg is culturally important to those visitors who study California history, or who enjoy witnessing Native American ceremonial events. It is of particular interest to many school groups that come to learn about northwest coast history.

Native Plant Garden

The park also has a native plant garden, located just south of Sumêg Village. These plants are used by the Yurok for basket making, food, medicine and ceremonial purposes.

NATURAL HISTORY

Though the park is in the heart of California's coast redwood country, the principal trees within the park are Sitka spruce, red alder, Douglas fir, hemlock and pine. Spring and summer wildflowers include Douglas iris, fairy bells, trillium, skunk cabbage, azalea and rhododendron. Thimbleberries, salmonberries and huckleberries are found along meadow edges. Fall and early winter bring out a wide variety of mushrooms, which are interesting to view but may not be picked.

The meadows in the park closely resemble the land prior to its acquisition as a state park



*Sumêg Village
Above: Canoe
Right: Plank house*



in 1929. During the period from 1875 to 1925, this area experienced large-scale manipulation. The forest was logged, burned, and cleared to graze sheep and cattle, and to plant crops of hay, potatoes and apple orchards. Maintained by mowing and manual removal of sprouting trees, the meadows in the park are now diverse with herbs, grasses and shrubs. They produce colorful wildflower displays

and provide scenic views of the shoreline and the rock outcrops.

Gray foxes, raccoons and brush rabbits are common sights in the park. Occasionally black-tailed deer and bears are also seen here. Any of these animals, but especially bears and raccoons, will happily feast on "people" food if given a chance. To avoid this please keep your campsite clean and your food stored in locked vehicles or metal food lockers.

Patrick's Point is a popular spot for viewing a variety of shore birds that visit the park during their spring and fall migrations. Quail

and jays enliven the campgrounds. Western gulls roost on an offshore rock south of Palmer's Point.

Agate Beach is a gently curving sand strip that can be reached by a short, steep trail from the Agate Beach parking lot. Semi-precious agates, for which the beach is named, are polished here by the constant



Sweathouse

movement of sand and water. Winter's driving winds and high tides also deposit driftwood of many shapes and sizes on the shore.

Tide pools near Palmer's Point support a rich variety of intertidal plants and animals. California sea lions, Steller sea lions and harbor seals can be sighted on the offshore rocks.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Trails

The Rim Trail is a two-mile walk that offers excellent views of the ocean and offshore rocks. From Agate Beach to Palmer's Point, six rather steep, quarter-mile trails connect the Rim Trail to the shoreline.

A couple of short, steep trails make it possible to reach the tops of Ceremonial Rock (rising 107 feet above the meadow) and Lookout Rock. These old sea stacks are evidence of the changing sea level and geological uplifting.

The quarter-mile Octopus Tree Trail loops through a grove of old growth Sitka spruce. Some of these trees originally sprouted on

top of old logs and then sent their roots stretching into the ground below. When the old logs rotted away, these trees were left standing on long, tentacle-like roots.

Camping

There are 124 family campsites spread among the Penn Creek, Abalone, and Agate Beach campgrounds. Each campsite has a table and a fire pit. Water faucets, restrooms and coin-operated showers are located nearby.

The Beach Creek Group Camp can accommodate up to 100 people. A covered cook shelter, picnic tables, coin-operated showers and a place to build a traditional campfire are available. The Lookout Rock Group Camp accommodates 24 people and has picnic tables, a campfire pit and a grill. A restroom with coin-operated showers is nearby. There are three group day-use picnic areas in the park. Red Alder can accommodate up to 100 people, Sumêg 100 people and Bishop Pine 50 people. Red Alder has a covered cook shelter, picnic tables, restrooms and coin-operated showers. Sumêg has a covered cook shelter with a four-burner gas grill, picnic tables and restrooms. Bishop Pine has picnic tables and fire pits, with restrooms nearby. Red Alder and Bishop Pine may also be used overnight. Check with park staff for details.

Campsites and group areas may be reserved by calling (800) 444-7275 or visiting www.reserveamerica.com. Reservations may be made up to seven months or as little as 48 hours in advance. Group facilities may be reserved March through November, and family campsites from May through September. All facilities are first come, first served the remainder of the year.

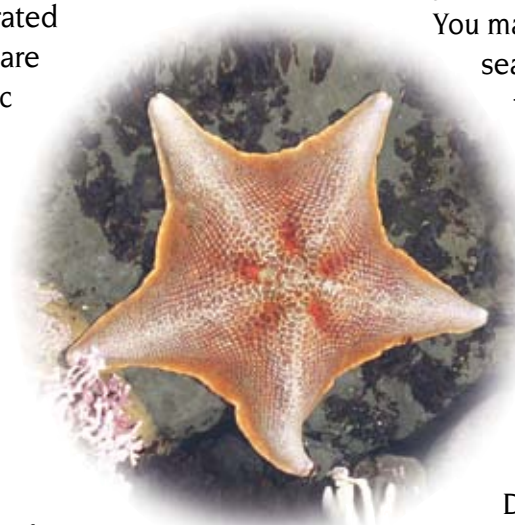
Interpretive Activities

The park visitor center contains exhibits highlighting the park's natural and cultural history. Nature walks, campfire programs and junior ranger programs are provided during the summer months. School programs and group tours may be scheduled year round.

Viewing Wildlife

You may see and hear sea lions and seals on the offshore rocks in the southern part of the park near Palmer's Point. This is also an excellent place to explore tide pools. The plants and animals living in the tide pools have adapted to one of the harshest environments on earth, enduring pounding waves and howling winds.

Depending upon the tides, they are exposed to salt water, fresh water in the form of rain, and fresh air. Yet the intertidal zone is one of the richest areas of life in the ocean.



Bat Star

Wedding Rock, Patrick's Point and Palmer's Point are excellent places to view the spring and fall migrations of the California gray whale. This annual migration along the west coast of North America is one of the world's outstanding wildlife spectacles. In traveling between their summer feeding grounds in the Bering Sea and their winter breeding grounds along the coast of Mexico, the forty-foot gray whales cover 10,000 miles in a year—the longest migration of any mammal. Some of the gray whales will summer in and around the Patrick's Point coastline.

ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

Accessible campsites are available in both the Abalone and Agate Beach campgrounds. Accessible restrooms with showers are nearby. The visitor center is generally accessible, with designated accessible parking and usable restrooms nearby. Accessible trails are available. (See map.)

Accessibility is continually improving. For more information, visit <http://access.parks.ca.gov>.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- **Swimming is not advised.** The ocean off Patrick's Point is cold and dangerous. Children should not even be allowed to wade, as there are unexpected holes in the underwater sand, and the undertow can be very strong. "Rogue" waves appear periodically and usually unexpectedly, and can be much larger than ordinary waves. **Never turn your back on the ocean.**



Ferruginous Hawk

- **Do not feed the animals.** Though bears, raccoons and skunks like "people" food, it is unhealthy for them. Feeding wild animals is unsafe for you and against park rules. Do not leave anything edible out overnight or when you are away from your campsite. Store food in locked vehicles or metal food lockers, and dispose of garbage in proper containers.
- **Plants, animals and archaeological features are protected.** Do not pick wildflowers or mushrooms.
- **Dogs must be on a leash no more than 6 feet long.** Dogs are allowed in the campgrounds, picnic areas and along paved roads, but they are not permitted on the beaches or on park trails. Do not leave them unattended. Loud or vicious dogs are not permitted in the park. Dogs must be kept in a tent or vehicle at night.

NEARBY STATE PARKS

Humboldt Lagoons State Park,

31 miles north of Eureka on Hwy 101
(707) 488-2041

Harry A. Merlo State Recreation Area

32 miles north of Eureka on Hwy 101
(707) 488-2041

Trinidad State Beach

19 miles north of Eureka on Hwy 101
(707) 677-3570

Little River State Beach

13 miles north of Eureka on Hwy 101
(707) 488-2041

Azalea State Reserve

5 miles north of Arcata via Hwy 101 and North Bank Rd., (Hwy. 200)
(707) 488-2041



Harbor seals

Photo by Betty Prange



Wedding Rock

Photo by Lin Strout

This park is supported in part through a nonprofit organization.

For more information contact:

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(707) 677-1945 or (707) 677-3570
ncredwood@jeffnet.org • www.ncria.org

Patrick's Point State Park



0 500 1000 Feet
0 100 200 300 Meters

Legend

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Freeway | Hike/Bike Campground |
| Major road | Locked Gate |
| Paved road | Nature Trail |
| Trail | Park Building |
| Accessible Trail | Parking |
| Accessible Feature | Picnic Area |
| Campfire Center | Ranger Station |
| Campground | Restrooms |
| 124 Campsites | RV Sanitation Station |
| Group Campground | Showers |
| Group Picnic Area | Viewpoint |

